[English]

Shades of Grey Dominate Army

1402. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Shades of grey dominate Army" appearing in the 'Sunday Pioneer', New Delhi dated November 10, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take or has taken to meet the crisis of old age problem among the commanders, which has reportedly been the direct fallout of the Second Cadre Review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Ages of retirement of Officers in the Army have undergone need and functional based changes since 1947. As per the existing ages of retirement, senior select rank Officers (Col. and above) retire at 58 years whereas Maj. and below retire at 50 years and Lt. Cols serve upto 52 years. Marginal increase in the ages of retirement of Officers of the rank of Lt. Col. and below are in keeping with the present day health standards and longevity. These ages of retirement are comparable with those in other Armies of the world.

It may also be stated that majority of the Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) retire before attaining the age of 40. There is no adverse effect of these ages of retirements on operational efficiency of the Army.

Operation Black Board

1403. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to release additional funds under Operation Black Board scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount provided to Andhra Pradesh under the said scheme during the last three years; and

(d) the time by which the additional funds sought by the State Government are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has been granted Central assistance of Rs. 6802.81 Lakhs from 1993-94 to 1995-96 under Operation Black Board scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

Ex-Servicemen

1404. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ex-servicemen in the country at present and the number of those who have retired during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the number of those who have been provided jobs after retirement during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). As on 30th June, 1996, 13.12.288 ex-Servicemen were registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in the country. The number of Armed Forces personnel retired during the last three years, year-wise is as under :

Year	No. of Personnel Retired
1993	60.375
1994	51.292
1995	48.528

2. The number of ex-Servicemen provided re-employment during the last five years is as under :

Year	No. of ex-Servicemen provided re-employment
1991	13.973
1992	14.933
1993	16.736
1994	16.457
1995	15.670

[Translation]

Serological Test

1405. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in the country where the laboratories conducting serological tests of viral infactions are functioning;

(b) whether there is no laboratory for conducting serological test of viral infection in Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Delhi has made a request to the Union Government for setting up of any such laboratory;

(e) if so, the details thereof;